

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims were 1-22 (Previously Cancelled).

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

23.(Previously amended) A method for the communication of data, said method comprising the steps of:

 providing an optical interface comprising at least two electro-optical components integrated into a common, encapsulated package;

 coupling communications equipment together with said optical interface; and

 permitting bi-directional data communications between said communications equipment through said optical interface.

24.(Previously added) The method of claim 23, wherein said step of permitting bi-directional data communications further comprise the step of enabling communications of data between a central processing unit (CPU) and at least one display unit.

25.(Previously added) The method of claim 23, wherein said bi-directional data communication is between a multimedia source and at least one video data display.

26.(Previously amended) A method of providing an optical interface useful for enabling bi-directional communication, said method comprising the steps of:

 mounting at least two electro-optic components onto a multi-element leadframe; and

 overmolding said at least two electro-optic components together with said multi-element leadframe using an encapsulant.

27.(Previously amended) The method of claim 26 wherein said at least two photonic components comprise at least one vertical cavity surface emitting laser (VCSEL).

28.(Previously added) The method of claim 26 wherein said at least two photonic components comprise at least one photodetector.

29.(Previously added) The method of claim 26 further comprising the step of coupling a plurality of optical fibers to said optical interface.

30.(Previously added) The method of claim 29, wherein said plurality of optical fibers comprises a fiber optic ribbon cable.

31.(Previously added) The method of claim 29 further comprising the step of:
maintaining alignment tolerances between said at least two photonic components and said plurality of optical fibers by utilizing alignment means integrated within said optical interface, wherein said plurality of optical fibers have fiber core diameters between approximately 500 microns and 1mm.

32.(Previously amended) A method for the communication of data between a Central Processing Unit (CPU) and a display monitor, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a photonic package containing within an encapsulant at least one Vertical Cavity Surface Emitting Laser (VCSEL) and at least one photodetector;
coupling said photonic package to at least one fiber optic ribbon cable; and
permitting data communications between said CPU and said display monitor through said photonic package.

33.(Canceled)

34.(Canceled)

35.(Canceled)

36.(Previously Canceled)

37.(Canceled)

38.(Canceled)

39.(Canceled)

40.(Canceled)

41.(Canceled)

42.(Canceled)

43.(Canceled)

44.(Canceled)